

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**MINUTES**

October 28, 1999

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting at the Wise County School Board Meeting Room in Wise, Virginia on Thursday, October 28, 1999 with the following members present:

Mr. Kirk T. Schroder, President  
Senator J. Brandon Bell, Vice President  
Mrs. Jennifer C. Byler  
Mr. Mark C. Christie

Mrs. Audrey B. Davidson  
Mrs. Susan T. Noble  
Mrs. Ruby W. Rogers  
Senator John W. Russell

Mr. Paul D. Stapleton, Secretary and  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Schroder called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

***INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS***

Dr. Michael Basham, Superintendent of Wise County Public Schools welcomed the Board members to Wise County and to Southwest Virginia. Dr. Basham also extended an invitation to the members of the Board to come back anytime they so desire.

Mr. Schroder asked each board member to briefly introduce themselves.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD***

Mrs. Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davidson and carried unanimously.

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

Mrs. Noble made a motion to move *Item E, First Review of Proposed Regulations Governing Approved Teacher Preparation Programs* and *Item I, First Review of Proposal to Promulgate Regulations Governing Remedial Programs* to the Consent Agenda. The Board also voted to waive first review of regulations to go out for public comment and to add an additional speaker from the Wise County Sheriff's office. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers and carried unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The motion was made by Senator Russell, seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously for approval of the Consent Agenda.

- Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Loan Fund
- First Review of Proposed Regulations Governing Approved Teacher Preparation Programs
- First Review of Proposal to Promulgate Regulations Governing Remedial Programs

### **Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Loan Fund**

The Department of Education's recommendation to approve the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of August 31, 1999 was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

### **First Review of Proposed Regulations Governing Approved Teacher Preparation Programs**

The Department of Education's recommendation that the Board accept the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure's proposed Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education, with the exception of Standard 1 in Section 8 VAC 20-541-50-Operation and Accountability of Professional Education Programs, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

### **First Review of Proposal to Promulgate Regulations Governing Remedial Programs**

The Department of Education's recommendation to waive first review and authorize the Department to begin the regulatory procedures as specified in Virginia's Administrative Process (APA) by submitting necessary Pre-NOIRA (Pre-Notice of Intended Regulatory Action) documents to the Office of the Secretary of Education and the Department of Planning and Budget was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Schroder recognized the two teams that were the winners in the regional PACE program. The student members of the teams and their coaches were called forward by Mr. Schroder. The Wise County School Board initiated the PACE program in 1983. PACE: Program of Academic Challenge for Excellence is a highly competitive academic bowl that challenges students to think fast and clearly. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year of this competition, which now includes eight teams from three school divisions. The content of the PACE program is derived from the four content areas covered by the Standards of Learning: English, mathematics, science, and history and social sciences. Thousands of questions are written, proofed, and assigned to weekly contests. Each team enters one pre-season scrimmage and seven contests of competition.

The winners of the regular season contest are Coeburn High School and St. Paul High School. Both schools are in Wise County Public Schools. These teams are the regular season co-champions, and each team has a record of six wins and one loss. The Tournament Competition will begin November 1 and conclude on November 4. The teams will compete in quarterfinals, semi-finals, and the finals. The season concludes with a banquet to honor all participants.

The co-championship team members are from Coeburn High School. Team coaches are Ms. Pam Johnson and Ms. Ann Worley. From St. Paul High School the Team coaches are Ms. Teresa Kelly and Ms. Karen Peters.

The overall coordinator of the PACE program is Mr. James Bolling, Director of Secondary Education for Wise County Public Schools. His Assistant Director is Ms. Suzanne Lawson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Mr. Schroder congratulated the team members, their coaches, and sponsors. He also presented a state flag to each team in honor of their achievements.

### ***PRESENTATION***

Chief Deputy Sheriff Major Gene Vanover, Jr., a representative from the Wise County Sheriff's Office made a presentation to the Board. Robert Mullins, the chairman of the Wise County School Board, worked diligently along with other members of the School Board to seek out grant fund for the School Resource Officer program. Suzanne Lawson assisted the Wise County Sheriff's Office in writing the grants along with David Dowdy. It was through their efforts in placing these officers in the school that Wise County was able to acquire grant funds to do that. As a result Wise County has seen a dramatic decrease in acts of violence at both Coeburn and J. J. Kelly.

Following Major Vanover's presentation, Mrs. Byler asked whether having the Resource Officers in schools really cut down on the crime. Major Vanover responded in the affirmative, indicating that he thinks officers' presence in the schools made a big impact on the students.

Mrs. Byler asked if Wise County has opted to allow hunting weapons locked in cars on school property or not? Major Vanover said that would be a question to address to the School Board.

Major Vanover also recognized Deputy Chris Stronge, an instructor through the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Major Vanover said that Deputy Strange has been asked to teach classes for new School Resource Officers across the Commonwealth.

### ***Final Review of Virginia's State Plan for Vocational and Technical Education***

Dr. Neils Brooks from the Department presented this item. Dr. Brooks noted that the Board had a first review in June, then conducted public hearings around the state in August. Dr. Brooks stated that there is very broad-based input from a wide variety of audiences and sectors in the development of the plan. The public hearing comments were very supportive.

There were no public hearing comments that would cause the Board to take an action to change anything in the plan. After approval today, the process would be to submit to the Governor, as required by the Federal Legislation, for his written comment.

The Governor's letter of support and comment then would accompany the plan to be sent as part of the federal approval process. Dr. Brooks reminded the Board that in this piece of Legislation that the U. S. Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education is required to negotiate

the percent of students for each of the four indicators of performance; thus, it is a possibility that we would have the plan sent back from the federal review office, asking us to make adjustments.

Mr. Schroder asked Dr. Brooks whether such a request is likely. Dr. Brooks stated that it is very likely, because it is the first opportunity that this U. S. Secretary of Education has had to do that. Dr. Brooks added that Virginia's plan is in good shape to be approved. Virginia has had a track record of good performance in the last four years.

Mr. Stapleton said he thought the plan, as submitted to the Board, is very little different than what had been submitted in the past. He added that some divisions, such as Russell County, Wise County, and Scott County as well as some of our Southwest counties, have a very strong vocational program. Mr. Stapleton indicated that he thinks this plan will echo that, and our Perkins money is on track.

Mr. Stapleton indicated that it is important to our public schools that the equitable share of that money comes to our public school program. He said that we have strong support from all of our vocational educators throughout the state.

Senator Russell made a motion to approve the FY 2000-04 State Plan for Vocational and Technical Education for submission to the Governor and then to the USDOE. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Noble and carried unanimously.

#### **First Review of Guidelines for GED/Compulsory Attendance Release Statute**

Dr. Neils Brooks presented this item. For the guidelines, last year the General Assembly changed the compulsory school attendance law to allow students who are 16 years of age to go through a particular program and process in order to be released from compulsory attendance if they no longer could benefit from the normal public education process. This is now in statute and the guidelines that are presented today implement the statute as a charge by General Assembly and written into the *Code of Virginia*. This requires local Boards to allow satisfaction of compulsory attendance for any student who is 16 years of age through the individual student alternative education plan (ISEP).

The ISEP is to be developed in a meeting between the parent of the student and the principal or his or her designee. They all have to be in agreement to the components in the plan.

The ISEP must include the following: 1) career guidance and counseling for the student; 2) mandatory enrollment in a GED testing and preparatory program or other alternative program, which is already provided in the state statute; and 3) counseling on the economic impact of failing to complete high school and receive a diploma. The student must also receive information for reenrollment into public school, if the individual so chooses.

Students who fail to comply with every aspect of this ISEP would be deemed by state statute to be in violation of compulsory school attendance. Therefore, Dr. Brooks explained, if a student enters into this program and he/she does not fulfill all requirements, immediately he/she is considered in violation of compulsory school attendance and can be removed from the program.

The students in this program are to be counted in average daily membership for the school division. Thus, school divisions will not lose funds because they will continue to be

providing services for those students. Local Boards must implement this program. They can do it individually, or they can do it jointly, if they so choose.

Dr. Brooks pointed out that the GED is owned and operated and leased by the American Council of Education, and this organization prohibits the use of the GED for anyone who is enrolled in public schooling. These students would be withdrawn from public school and enrolled in this alternative program of GED preparatory studies. The American Council on Education does not want the GED to be a detractor from the public school process at the secondary level; however, Virginia was the first state to ask permission to use a GED test for students who were at risk for an alternative program. Virginia was granted that permission in 1988.

Virginia will have to get final permission from the American Council of Education to offer this for the students. Department staff has had conversations with the American Council of Education staff members, and they are willing to grant us permission to use the GED with our students. This will be in addition to the permission we already have.

Dr. Brooks explained that the specific guidelines must be set by the Board for the implementation of the procedure. It is important to know that the monies that the General Assembly has allocated for this program must be spent on new programs and new students. School divisions cannot simply go into the fund for existing alternative-type programs. Funds must be spent on developing new programs. The first step would be the meeting with the parent, the student, and the principal. This is where the ISEP is developed and where the decision will be made on whether a student is going to be in a GED preparation program or whether he/she is going to be enrolled in an alternative vocational program or adult program.

Dr. Brooks further explained that the GED is a very rigorous test. It is considered to be equivalent secondary education, so students who are not capable or who have not scored at certain levels on the pre-GED test would not be allowed to enter this program. Such students would need to go to an alternative or remedial program to prepare to be able to go into this particular program. This is consistent with requirements that we have in place now for use with students who are 17 years of age. Actual placement is an option for students. Once they have taken the test of adult basic education, they would have to have a 9.5 grade equivalent in reading, and they would have to have an average of 40 on the sub-test of the official GED practice test. That is the current requirements that Virginia has for the alternative program.

Students will be considered eligible for testing when their official total score on the GED practice test reached 250 and a minimum score of 45 on the sub-test. That again is the current requirement that Virginia has for all of those who take the GED.

Once students have met those score levels, have completed the GED test, qualified for the actual GED certificate, and met all other components of ISEP, then they may be withdrawn from public school as having satisfactorily completed public education. As a result of that, such students would be counted on the school division's report of graduates as having completed secondary program and being released from compulsory attendance.

Mrs. Davidson asked Dr. Brooks if consideration was given for students to get occupational training during this time because it would help them to be more employable. Dr. Brooks stated that this would be something that could be decided by the Board. Dr. Brooks noted

that he recently provided a copy of a study to the Board on *Virginia's Changing Workplace: Employers Speak*. There were 500 employers in Virginia that were interviewed over a two-year process. In this study, those employers said all students leaving public education need a minimum of three things. First they need a basic solid academic foundation, which the GED would give them, second, they need occupational skills so they can become employable at an entry level so they can support themselves. Third, they need what are called the soft skills, often called "the new basics," of workplace readiness and employability skills. More specifically, these skills are related to how to get along with co-workers, how to get along with supervisor, how to think through positive situations, how to make decisions, and how to deal with conflict and resolution. While this program is an excellent program, the vocational component was not required in statute. It could be something a local Board would want to add or the State Board would want to consider.

Mrs. Davidson made a motion to accept the report for first review and to add an occupational training component. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers and carried unanimously. This item will be presented to the Board for final approval at the November meeting.

**First Review of Computer/Technology Competencies by the End of Grade Twelve and Approval for Public Hearings**

Mr. Lan Neugent of the Department of Education presented this item. He explained that these competencies set high expectations for the high school students. The Legislature last year passed a requirement that all teachers in Virginia must have competencies in the technology standards and be able to instruct in these areas. Virginia has standards and competencies in place up to the eighth grade, and it is now time to have teachers, K through grade 12, able to use technology in the classrooms.

Mr. Neugent noted that these standards are aligned with the eighth grade standards. The Department of Education is trying to give teachers at the higher level the ability to develop mastery of the skills that they had previously acquired and to use them in the classroom. As students go out into the work world, or if they go on to college, they are going to need to have those skills mastered.

Mr. Christie asked that, from a terminology standpoint, should the heading on this document read Computer Technology Standards of Learning for High School. Mr. Neugent said that the document could be so entitled with no difficulty.

Mr. Christie stated that this terminology would keep down confusion. He complimented the fine work of Mr. Neugent and his staff and added that the Board wants to make sure that every child who graduates from a Virginia high school is computer literate. The way our Standards of Learning are set up right now, students will be computer literate by the end of the eighth grade. Mr. Christie added that it is important to keep reinforcing those computer skills in high school, and this is the purpose of having standards for computer technology in high school.

Mr. Christie made a motion to waive first review and approve the proposal for public comment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

**Statement Recognizing the Vocational Education Program in Russell County**

Mr. Stapleton congratulated Larry Massey, Superintendent of Russell County Public Schools. Mr. Stapleton noted that we have strong vocational programs in Tazewell, Scott, Smyth, Russell, and all of our counties in Southwest, but Larry Massey has taken a step forward. Russell County's integrated manufacturing technology lab is amazing. It is a great example of a combination of technology, and it is a great example of partnerships between industries in Russell County.

**First Review of the Proposed Military Alternative Route to Licensure**

Dr. Thomas Elliott of the Department of Education presented this topic to the Board. In September, the Board heard a report on a concept for developing another alternative route to licensure. This program is referred to as the "career switcher" approach. This would be a program designed to enable an individual to meet certain prerequisites and, within a one-year preparation phase, would be eligible for the Collegiate Professional License.

Since the meeting in September, two major events have occurred that Dr. Elliott pointed out to the Board. First of all, the Superintendent's Task Force on the Alternative Route to Career Switches convened on Saturday, September 25. This Task Force assisted staff in developing the program design. Secondly, staff and Dr. Elliott have taken the suggestions from the Task Force, along with the discussions with the Board Members, and developed the document entitled Career Switchers Alternative Route to Licensure for Military Personnel.

Dr. Elliott said the document contains the same components that the Board outlined in September. Dr. Elliott asked the Board to approve the amendment of the licensure regulations adopted by the Board in 1998 and, secondly, grant the Department staff approval to proceed with the APA in order to conduct pilots by the summer of 2000.

Mr. Christie presented an amendment which clarifies regulation 8 VAC 20-21-80.A.1, Subdivision 1. Mr. Christie said these are the basic entry requirements for an individual who would be seeking to start down this track. An individual seeking eligibility license must meet the following requirements: 1) a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited institution and 2) the completion of teaching area of requirements.

Mr. Christie made a motion for the document to go out for public comment along with the amended version. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

**First Review of Proposed Procedures for Distributing National Board Certification Incentive Awards**

Dr. Thomas Elliott presented this topic to the Board. Dr. Elliott said the 1999 General Assembly approved the educational accountability and quality enhancement item, and it provided for a National Board Certification Reward Program and Fund. The General Assembly also stipulated that Board Certified teachers in Virginia would be eligible to receive a financial bonus of \$5000 for being Board Certified teachers.

The General Assembly also indicated that, in addition to the \$5000 for being Board Certified, teachers would receive an annual bonus of \$2500 for each of the remaining nine years of the certification.

Mrs. Noble made a motion to waive first review of the proposed guidelines for distributing the National Board Certification Incentive Awards. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

**First Review of HJR #692 Study: The Efficacy of Allowing High School Students to Substitute Participation in Competitive Sports for One-Half of the Physical Education Requirement**

Mrs. Sandy Dofflemyer of the Department of Education presented this topic to the Board. The 1999 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 692 which requests the Board of Education to study the efficacy of allowing high school students to substitute participation in competitive sports for one-half of the physical education requirements. The resolution required the Board of Education to review the high school course requirements, receive public comment, review and compare the Standards of Learning for Physical Education with the physical requirements for sports competition, determine and consider alternatives, and provide guidance regarding how such issues should be addressed.

The process of gathering data for the study involved division superintendents, principals, teachers/coaches, students, parents, the Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the Virginia Athletic Directors, the Virginia High School League and the National Association of Sports and Physical Education.

Results of the study indicated that 1) superintendents (68%), teachers/coaches (79%), and parents (59%) are not in favor of substituting participation in competitive sports for one-half of the physical education graduation requirements; 2) students (53%) are in favor of the proposed substitution; 3) training regulations developed by coaches are not consistent, either within a given school division or across the state; and 4) a maximum of only 29% of the Physical Education Standards of Learning could be accomplished by participating in a competitive sport.

The Board received the report for first review.

**First Review of Regulations Governing Secondary School Transcript**

Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary of the Department presented this topic to the Board. In accordance with 8 VAC 20-160-10 et. seq., the transcript of a student who graduates or transfers from a Virginia secondary school shall show the minimum units of standard or verified credit earned and required for graduation with a Standard or Advanced Studies diploma.

Mr. Christie made a motion to waive first review and approve the proposals for public comment. The motion recommendation includes the addition of verified credits and statements to specify that high school accreditation status and the Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores not be included on the secondary school transcript. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.



**First Review of Board Recognition of Accrediting Entities for Preschools and Nursery Schools as Required by House Bill 2205**

Senator Russell presented this topic. House Bill 2205, patroned by Delegate Nixon, addressed the exemption of certain preschool or nursery school programs from the requirements of licensure by the Department of Social Services.

The bill amended Sections 63.1-196.001 and 63.1-196.3:1 of the *Code of Virginia* by adding to the exemption from licensure those preschool or nursery school programs operated by private schools that meet the accrediting criteria of any of the following accrediting entities, if the entity is recognized by the Board of Education: (1) the Association of Christian Schools International; (2) the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation; (3) the National Accreditation Council for Early Childhood Professional Personnel and Programs; (4) the International Academy for Private Education; (5) the Standards for the American Montessori Society Accreditation; (6) the International Accreditation and Certification of Childhood Educators, Programs, and Trainers; or (7) the National Accreditation Commission.

At its July meeting, the Board adopted a plan that included the formation of a subcommittee of three Board members to conduct a review of the entities and make a recommendation to the Board. Currently, the Board of Education has only recognized schools accredited by the Virginia Council for Private Education.

The text of a proposed resolution was presented to the Board for its consideration. Senator Russell made a motion to waive first review and adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers and carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Establishing a Process for Recognizing Accrediting  
Entities for Preschools and Nursery Schools**

**Whereas**, House Bill 2205, adopted by the 1999 Session of the General Assembly, addressed the exemption of certain preschool or nursery school programs from the requirements of licensure; and

**Whereas**, the bill amended §§63.1-196.001 and 63.1-196.3:1 of the Code of Virginia by adding to the exemption from licensure those preschool or nursery school programs operated by private schools that meet the accrediting criteria of any of the following accrediting entities, if the entity is recognized by the Board of Education:

- the National Association for the Education of Young Children's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs;
- the Association of Christian Schools International;
- the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation;
- the National Accreditation Council for Early Childhood Professional Personnel and Programs;
- the International Academy for Private Education;
- the Standards for the American Montessori Society Accreditation;

- the International Accreditation and Certification of Childhood Educators, Programs, and Trainers; or
- the National Accreditation Commission;

**Whereas**, as a result of this recent legislation, the Board was directed to develop a process for recognizing these eight accrediting entities; and

**Whereas**, in July 1999, the President of the Board of Education appointed a Committee to undertake a study of the issues addressed in House Bill 2205 and to make recommendations to the Board for appropriate actions in order that the Board may comply with the requirements of this bill; and

**Whereas**, as a result of its study, the Committee reaffirms its agreement between the Board and VCPE in 1985 and the resolution of the Board of Education as adopted in 1993, which established the following policy:

“ . . . The Board recognizes the accrediting process for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools as administered through the Commission on Accreditation of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) primarily for the purpose of public school acceptance of credits earned by students who attended such schools when they transfer to public schools and for any other purpose(s) which may, from time to time, be specified by the *Code of Virginia* or as may be mutually agreed upon by the Board and VCPE; . . .”

**Whereas**, the Board of Education thus recognizes the Virginia Council for Private Education as the advisory committee for the accreditation of private schools in Virginia;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that in concurrence with the recommendation of and the research conducted by the Virginia Council for Private Education, and with the endorsement of the Committee, the Board of Education shall officially recognize the eight organizations as listed herein for the purpose of accrediting private preschools and nursery schools;

**Be It Further Resolved** that such recognition is intended to satisfy the requirements of and is in keeping with §§63.1-196.001 and 63.1-196.3:1 of the *Code of Virginia*;

**Be It Finally Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the patron of House Bill 2205, the leadership of the Virginia Council for Private Education, and to others as deemed appropriate in order that such persons and organizations may be informed of the policy of the Board of Education regarding the process for recognizing accrediting entities for preschools and nursery schools.

Adopted This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of October 1999

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

The following persons spoke during the public comment.

Patricia Sebens	Danny Dixon
Elizabeth Bowman	Larry Massey
Brenda Long	Terry Collier
Sally Chadwell	Carl Stanley
Paul Varson	

***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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President

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Secretary of the Board